



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
2175 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20037-1809
Phone 202-261-7600 Fax 202-261-7650
www.chemsafety.gov

Paul L. Hill, Jr., Ph.D.
Chairman and CEO

Gerald V. Poje, Ph.D.
Board Member

Irv Rosenthal, Ph.D.
Board Member

Andrea Kidd Taylor, Dr. P.I
Board Member

November 16, 1999

Jacob J. Lew, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Old Executive Office Building
17th & Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20503

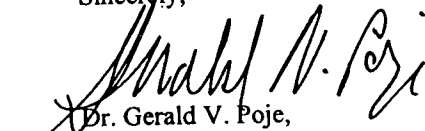
Dear Director Lew:


We ask your assistance and guidance on an urgent matter of budgetary policy for our agency. On October 29, 1999 the Chair of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, Dr. Paul L. Hill, Jr. on his own authority transmitted a FY2001 preliminary budget request of \$16,000,000 for our agency. That request had not received the review and voting approval of a quorum of the board. Based upon information that we received after transmittal of the Chairman's letter, we have serious reservations about this preliminary budget estimate.


On November 5, 1999 by a voting majority, the Board directed the Chairman to transmit a letter of retraction. He has not acceded to the Board's legal direction. In addition he has sent an e-mail message to Board members and staff indicating that until further notice, he will be on personal/medical leave and delegating his authorities to his chief operating officer, who does not have board member status. Therefore, we have voted today to transmit our own letter of budget retraction.

To the extent that the Chairman and Chief Operating Officer will answer our information requests, the full board will review our programmatic priorities and needs for FY 2001, and transmit a board approved budget request shortly. We welcome your advice and counsel on resolving this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Dr. Gerald V. Poje,
Board Member


Dr. Isadore Rosenthal
Board Member


Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor
Board Member

cc: Paul L. Hill, Jr. Chairman
Zach Church, OMB Program Examiner